

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING – TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009**

**SB 978 – AN ACT CONCERNING OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING FOR CERTAIN  
STATE EMPLOYEES**

**Presented by:**

**Cameron Champlin, Representing the UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 777 and  
Joyce Wojtas, Mechanical Contractors Assoc. of CT and UA Plumbers and Pipefitters  
Union, Local 777**

Senator Prague, Representative Ryan, and members of the Labor Committee --

The United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 777 and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Connecticut (MCAC) would like to go on record in strong support the substitute language in Senate Bill No. 978 to clarify the definition of “plumbing and piping work” and “heating, piping and cooling work” in C.G.S. Sec.20-330 to include “tubing and piping mains and branch lines used to produce a product up to and including the closest valve to any machine or equipment used in the production process within a manufacturing facility”. The intent of this change is to ensure the safe installation of piping mains and branch lines by licensed individuals who have been adequately trained to perform this work and can include gas lines, steam lines, pressurized water lines, or other hazardous or flammable material lines. A license is currently required for the installation of these lines in manufacturing facilities. However, when a main is installed within the facility with branch lines running to machinery or equipment within that facility, it is questionable as to whether a license is required under current law. Using trained and licensed individuals for these installations is critical to ensure the safety of the consumer, the workers in manufacturing facilities, and the public. About 80 percent of this work currently performed in Connecticut is performed by out-of-state unlicensed individuals.

For the record, employees of manufacturers are exempt from licensing requirements under C.G.S. Sec. 30-340, Subsection (6) when performing plumbing and piping, and heating, piping and cooling work maintenance. from a manufacturer who would be exempt from licensing.

On January 29, 2009, a Committee Bill was raised by the General Law Committee covering this clarification of the definitions in Sec. 20-330. Unfortunately, due to a technical error, the bill did not have a public hearing and it is too late to schedule at this time.

It is interesting to note that in 2008, a bill sponsored by the Department of Public Safety (Public Act 08-65- Effective October 1, 2008) An Act Concerning the State Fire Prevention Code, amended C.G.S. Sec. 29-305 in Section 2. of the bill. The change in the law, rather than just allowing the inspections for "brick and mortar" now includes inspections of "processes, equipment, systems and other areas regulated by the State Fire Safety Code and the State Fire Prevention Code within their jurisdictions". This is important, because often, the tubing and piping branch lines could be regulated by the State Fire Safety Code.

This work is logically the job of the licensed plumber and pipefitter and we respectfully request that you support the substitute language in the bill and report it out favorably to the Senate in the near future.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

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